

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13

/099 W

-----281026Z 084164 /20

R 271555Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8632

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09108

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: EGON BAHR ON GERMAN DOMESTIC POLITICS

1. EGON BAHR, THE BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE SPD, TOLD ME ON MAY 26 THAT THE GOVERNMENT COALITION WOULD HOLD AND THAT THE CDU COULD NOT TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT WAS INCAPABLE OF ACTING (HANDLUNGSUNFAEHIG).

2. BAHR SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTY FACED TWO VITAL PROBLEMS. THE FIRST PROBLEM WAS THE ENERGY ISSUE, ON WHICH THERE WAS NO GOOD SOLUTION BECAUSE MORE ENERGY WAS NEEDED WHILE THE PEOPLE WERE
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OPPOSED TO THE NUCLEAR PLANTS REQUIRED TO PRODUCE THAT ENERGY. BAHR SAID THAT RECENT POLLS SHOWED THE POPULATION WAS BECOMING MORE RATHER THAN LESS FEARFUL OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. THE SPD'S DILEMMA WAS THAT IT COULD NOT SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON ENERGY REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT LOSING CONTACT WITH THE POPULATION; ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SPD COULD NOT SUPPORT THE POPULAR

POSITION AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY WITHOUT FAILING IN ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO GOVERN.

3. THE SECOND SERIOUS PROBLEM, BAHR SAID, WAS UNEMPLOYMENT. THE CURRENT LEVEL OF 1 MILLION WAS BOUND TO REMAIN. IT COULD EVEN RISE TO 2 MILLION. GERMAN PUBLIC OPINION, SPOILED BY POST-WAR PROSPERITY, COULD NOT TOLERATE 1 MILLION FOR LONG. IF UNEMPLOYMENT REACHED 2 MILLION, THERE WOULD BE PANIC. YET PEOPLE CONTINUED TO SAVE RATHER THAN TO INVEST AND TO SPUR THE ECONOMY. BAHR SAW NO SOLUTION AND HE KNEW OF NOBODY WHO HAD ONE.

4. BAHR SAID HE HOPED THAT A RETURN TO PROSPERITY IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD SPUR THE GERMAN ECONOMY. HE ADDED THAT A RISE IN GERMAN PROSPERITY COULD NOT, IN TURN, HELP THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE GERMANY WAS TOO SMALL, BUT THAT IT COULD HELP THE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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POLLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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